52. Ayurveda reforms.

MR. C. R. AIYAPPAN VAIDYAN (*Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) first urged the need for opening a class in the Ayurveda College for the training of students in surgery. The students who passed out of the college had only a theoretical knowledge of surgery, but no practical training in the subject. This was a great disadvantage, inasmuch as a candidate who took the *Vaidyakalanidhi* diploma was not able to perform even a minor operation. To remedy this defect a training class in surgery should be attached to the Ayurveda College or to the Ayurveda Hospital and a competent surgeon appointed as Lecturer.

The Government Ayurveda Hospital at Trivandrum stood in need of reform. Accommodation should be provided in the Hospital for treating at least 50 in-patients. The number of patients seeking medical relief in the Hospital was increasing from year to year. From 38,571 in 1104 it had increased to 43,571 in 1105 and to 50,152 in 1106. There was heavy work to the chief *vaidyan* and his subordinates. The pay of the chief *vaidyan* should be enhanced to Rs. 100 per mensem and that of the assistant *vaidyan* to Rs. 50 per mensem. The pay of the compounders and other subordinates should also be proportionately increased.

The majority of the people had great faith in the Ayurvedic system of treatment. But the number of *vaidyasalas* in the State was insufficient. Government Ayurveda hospitals should be established in all the taluks.

The grants awarded to aided Ayurveda *vaidyasalas* should be enhanced, the minimum being fixed at Rs. 30 per mensem and the maximum at Rs. 60 per mensem.

Non-caste Hindus did not get adequate encouragement in the Ayurvedic institutions, such as the Ayurveda College, the Pharmacy and the Hospital at Trivandrum. Ezhavas, among non-caste Hindus, were, by tradition, generally highly qualified physicians. They should be specially encouraged.

Medicinal herbs were not readily available in the State. The establishment of a herbarium was an urgent necessity. This would afford facilities to the students of the Ayurveda College for identifying the herbs. There were herbariums attached to most of the Ayurvedic institutions in British India. A herbarium should be opened at Trivandrum at an early date and the Ayurveda College and the Pharmacy should also be located in the same place.

Separate classes should be opened in the Ayurveda College for the teaching of poison cure and eye-treatment and specialists qualified in those branches of the science should be appointed for teaching the Pharmacy subjects.

Better efforts should be made for rendering into Malayalam Ayurveda treatises in other languages such as Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindi,

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Bengali and English. There was already only one *pandit* to attend to this work. He could not cope with the work. Four additional *pandits* should therefore be appointed for the work.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Aiyappan Vaidyan, the opening of a class in the Ayurveda College for the training of students in surgery, and the reform of the Trivandrum Hospital will be considered.

The establishment of more grant-in-aid hospitals, the fixing of the maximum grant to hospitals at Rs. 100 and the enhancement of grants to aided *vaidyasalas* must wait till the condition of our finances improves.

The same has to be said in regard to the encouragement of *pandits*.

It is a very good suggestion that you made about the need for translating into Malayalam books on Ayurveda in other languages. But it must wait for finance.

As regards the herbarium, the question is engaging the attention of Government and it only remains to choose a suitable site.

53. Need for formulating a separate scheme for the spread of medical education among women.

MRS. P. PALPU (*Nominated*) said that Travancore stood in the forefront among the Indian States in point of female education. But this education was purely literary. In several respects women were equally responsible with men for the progress of a country, while in certain matters women alone played an important role. In the medical branch, for instance, women played a prominent part. Medical education was most suited to them. The health and sanitation of any particular locality depended largely on the knowledge in medicine and hygiene of the women there. Whatever might be the rules or principles enunciated for the proper sanitation and public health of a place, their actual working rested with the women. It was therefore necessary to increase the knowledge of women in medicine, sanitation and public health. Many women suffered untold hardship by hiding their diseases because of their sentimental objection to have them examined and treated by men doctors. Further, in many cases, labour cases, for instance, men doctors were not able to realise the exact condition of the women patients. The presence and attendance of women doctors in such cases would be a real boon to women. The chief way of helping the women was therefore to increase the number of women doctors. The following measures might be adopted in order that this might be done :—

(1) Every year a certain number of educated women should be sent to Madras and other places for the study of medicine and granted scholarships.

(2) A certain number of women should be selected every year for training in the Ayurveda College and they should also be awarded scholarships.

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